

47.
MEMOIRS
OF THE
LIFE
OF
JOSHUA DUDLEY;

EXPLAINING,
AMONGST OTHER PARTICULARS,

The MOTIVES of his pretended DISCOVERY
of the Persons concerned in setting Fire
to the DOCK-YARD at PORTSMOUTH in
July 1770.

Written by HIMSELF.

LONDON:

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[Price One Shilling.]

THE

JOSHUA BUDLEY

25 JUL 1953

AMONGST OTHER PARTIES



July 17/0.

Written by H I M S E L F.

МОДО

Printed by S. H. Brown, at No. 28, Fleet Street, London.

18 DEC 1977

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TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

EARL of ROCHFORD.

MY LORD,

HAVING had the honour of a long correspondence with your Lordship, I think it my duty to dedicate this abstract of my past unhappy life to so worthy and amiable a patron, who, being a true friend to his country, encourages virtue in the lowest situations of life as well as the most exalted. My Lord, did I want any favour from your Lordship, this language might look like flattery: I want
none,

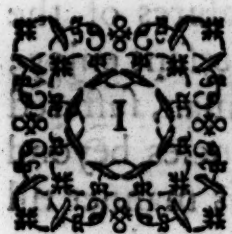
none, and therefore speak the true sentiments of my heart. I now take my last farewell of your Lordship, till I enjoy a new climate and strange country, where your Lordship's virtues ever shall be present before me, and point out the path in which I should tread to retrieve my lost reputation: And that the unerring hand of Providence may still continue to direct your Lordship in the exertion of those valuable talents, which are so conspicuous in all your actions, is the prayer of your Lordship's sincere, but unhappy

DUDLEY.



5

M E M O I R S
OF THE
L I F E
OF
JOSHUA DUDLEY.



Was born in Ireland, at Roscrea, in the county of Tipperary. My father, who is one of the people called Quakers, lived in very good credit. I was, when very young, sent to a school about forty miles from my father's; I continued there upwards of four years, confined to the strictest rules of sobriety, which did not agree with my disposition. When I left school I was about fourteen years of age, and having a great desire to see the capital of our kingdom, I obtained leave from my parents to indulge my curiosity, and was very genteelly equipped for the occasion. When I arrived in Dublin, I was most agreeably surprized at the different scenes which presented themselves to my view every day. I soon grew

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fond of the park, the play, &c. to which my
 uncle, who was a merchant in that city, and
 with whom I lived, accompanied me. As I
 expressed a great desire to live in town, my
 uncle obtained leave from my father for me to
 continue some time longer with him; and as
 I had several relations at that time students in
 Trinity College, I spent most of my afternoons
 there, and in a little time entirely lodged
 there. My uncle made a proposal to my
 father to take me apprentice, which was agreed
 on, and I was accordingly bound for five years.
 The first two years I was very much confined to
 the 'compting-house; but being arrived at the
 age of about seventeen, I thought it beneath
 me to be restrained from the pleasures of the
 town, which I saw other young persons enjoy;
 and my uncle, being an easy quiet man, suffered
 me to run into many extravagancies beyond
 my circumstances. I lived in this manner till
 the last year of my time; when getting ac-
 quainted at College with a young gentleman,
 (son to a widow lady who lived in Moles-
 worth-street,) I had an invitation to his mother's
 house, which I accepted; but the elegance of
 the entertainment, which was very superb,
 did not engage my attention in the least; it
 was a more amiable object, no less than the
 youngest sister of my companion. I embraced
 every opportunity of enjoying this young lady's
 company; but notwithstanding my youth,
 I was not ignorant of the objections both our
 parents

parents would have to our connections, her fortune being far above what I could expect; and I need not inform the reader of her mother being exceeding proud, when I tell him she is first cousin to the Earl of B***, and would never consent to have her daughter married to a grazier's son: on the other hand, I was certain my father would never consent I should marry out of the church which he professed. These obstacles were not sufficient to separate us: she soon became as eager for our innocent meetings as myself, and by mutual consent we were privately married. It was upwards of two months before our friends heard any thing of the matter; but one afternoon, calling at her mother's house, I was informed by a servant that his lady could not be seen, and Miss C. was sent into the country. I was almost distracted at this news, but could not by any means get intelligence where she was sent. In this situation I remained three days, when I received a letter from her, giving me an account that her mother, as soon as she heard of our being married, sent her directly to a town called Ross, in the county of Waterford, where her uncle is collector of the customs. In a few days I had the mortification of seeing my father in town, who, in very severe terms, upbraided me with my disobedience in marrying without his knowledge; all I could say in my behalf availed nothing; he left me with this farewell,

"Never let me see thee in my house more." About a month after, my uncle informed me that he intended to send me a supercargo in one of his ships to Philadelphia; I was greatly alarmed at this news, and endeavoured all in my power to alter his intention, but to no purpose; he told me no person could settle the accompts with his correspondents there but me, being so long with him, and acquainted with his business. The ship at that time had most of her cargo in, which consisted chiefly of linnen cloth and servants. I found means (notwithstanding I had reason to believe a watch was over me) to see my wife before the ship sailed; I shall not attempt to give a description of our meeting and parting in one day, but leave the reader to form an idea of the tender and distressing occasion. When I arrived in Dublin, I was informed that the ship would sail in four days, and had orders to get every thing ready for the voyage, and bidding adieu to all that I had dear on earth, I set sail the 14th day of April, 1765. I shall give a copy of some verses which were written on the occasion.

THE curling waves confess the rising gales,
Which quiv'ring glitter with the setting ray,
With shouts the sailors loose the swelling sails,
And hail the breeze, impatient of delay:

When sad reclin'd upon the deck was seen,
His bosom heaving with a deep-fetch'd sigh,
D——, a youth of melancholy mien,
A tear just falling from his down-cast eye.

Plaintive

Plaintive and slow, but musically sweet,
 His voice, his words were very slow and few :
 Fix'd were his watry eyes, and fix'd his feet,
 ' Ireland (he said) dear native soil, adieu !

' Thine are the various blessings of each clime,
 ' Thou nurse of science, beauty, freedom, arms !
 ' Deep are thy sages, and thy bards sublime,
 ' Graceful thy daughters, matchless in their charms.

' Full-handed Plenty revels in each lawn,
 ' And Pleasure smiles in ev'ry flow'ry mead,
 ' And rosy Health is seen at earliest dawn
 ' The Loves and Graces in her hand to lead.

' Oh ! sure the man who riches will pursue
 ' To America's realms, or Indian deserts drear,
 ' When recollection brings thee to his view,
 ' Will pay thy mem'ry one repentant tear.

' For me, be witness, heav'n ! my humble mind
 ' With hope of wealth was never taught to glow :
 ' A tender maid, compassionately kind,
 ' And friend sincere, was all I wish'd to know :

' A friend, the secrets of my soul to share,
 ' Its griefs to lessen, and its joys increase ;
 ' A maid, fond, modest, delicate and fair,
 ' Whose days were pleasure, and whose nights were peace.

' Just such a friend in Junius * I possess'd,
 ' Just such a mistress did Carolina prove ;
 ' He shar'd the dearest secrets of my breast,
 ' And she, she only, shar'd my dearest love.

' Yet I must leave you, worthy as you are ;
 ' Perhaps these eyes must never see ye more,
 ' Oh cruel stars ! oh destiny severe !
 ' My friend I love, my mistress I adore.

' Does

* Rev. Mr. Adamson, T. C. D.

' Does not each worth which kindred souls admire
 ' Love to reside within his generous breast ?
 ' Is she not all the proudest can desire,
 ' When he would be extravagantly blest'd ?

' Oh she is dear ! witness, ye days and nights,
 ' And all ye hours, bear witness she is dear ;
 ' For well ye know no other hope delights
 ' This sad, sad heart, which knows no other fear.'

Here stopp'd his tongue ; the tears now faster fell ;
 Bright shone the moon ; the cold dews bath'd his head ;
 ' Ireland (again he sigh'd) a last farewell !'
 Then down retir'd into a sleepless bed.

The wind continued very favourable for about three weeks, during which time we were in good spirits, and had run our reckoning out to about one hundred leagues ; but on the 7th of May, the wind shifting about to the west, it blew a very great storm, in which we sprung our main-yard and mizen-mast ; it continued to blow very hard for three or four days, when the wind came about again to the east. Our Captain being very ill of a fever, died on the 13th, and the navigating of the vessel lay to the mate ; the wind being then favourable for upwards of a week, we ran our longitude out, and tried for soundings, but had none. In about a week after we spoke with a vessel, who informed us we were upwards of four hundred leagues from our port : our provisions being almost exhausted, we shortened the allowance to one biscuit per day, and

and one pint of water; we had plenty of salt beef, but it caused such a thirst, that we could not eat it, on account of the scantiness of our water. We lived at this rate till the 20th of July, when inquiring into the quantity of water on board, we found it not to exceed forty gallons for near two hundred people. This account struck terror to every soul on board: the servants became outrageous, they attempted to enter the cabin and put the mate to death: we had four gentlemen passengers, who, with the mate and I, armed with swords and pistols, came upon deck, when I ordered every person off the quarter-deck; notwithstanding the thoughts of perishing for want in a very short time might make them desperate, yet they all readily obeyed my commands. I then told them I was in the same situation as they, and that it was not by any means our faults, but was certainly the hand of Divine Justice which had overtaken some of us, and suffered this affliction to come; I begged of them to supplicate the Almighty for his assistance and forgiveness; they seemed somewhat pacified; when I gave orders for a prayer-book to be brought me, and again desired they would join us in supplication to God Almighty, which they did, and I have great reason to believe with great fervency. After prayers we distributed one glass of brandy to each person, and all being quiet, we retired to our cabin. About ten o'clock in the evening it began

began to thunder and lighten very much, and increasing to that degree we were afraid our pumps would split, I ordered them to be stopped: I went on the deck, when I saw a large ball of fire strike the water not twenty yards from our ship, which very much frightened me, and made me think it was the hand of Providence which now sent justice on us poor sinners. The lightening lasted near two hours, when it grew very dark, and soon began to rain; all hands being ordered up to catch water, we had the holes on the deck stopped, and before six o'clock next morning, had put into our water-casks nine hundred gallons. Next day we spoke with a ship bound from London to Boston, and acquainting the Captain with our distress for want of bread, he told us we might have some from him, and hoisting out our boat, we brought on board five hundred weight; then wishing him a good voyage, and he returning the compliment, we steered our course, had a middling wind for a few days, and then came a calm, which lasted upwards of three weeks. Our bread again began to be very short. The twenty-sixth of August we spoke with a sloop bound from New London to Bermudas, loaded with flour; having acquainted them with our distress, and offering to purchase a few barrels, they hoisted sail and told us we should have none. Nothing could be more provoking than the barbarity of those wretches, to leave so many poor creatures

creatures perishing for want, and would not let us have relief, though we offered double the value. The servants again assembled, and insisted on having the guns shipped on the quarter-deck, declaring they would board the very next vessel they fell in with, and oblige them to furnish some provisions, which should be paid for. I directly consented to their request, and some of them went to casting balls for the swivels in salt. On the sixth day of October we discovered six sail; I then gave them our arms, and leave to hoist out the long-boat; they put her in tackles, and had every thing ready for an engagement, when we saw one of them bearing down directly to us, and when within hailing, saluted us with, From whence come you ho, and where are you bound to? we answered them, from Dublin and Philadelphia; they then asked if we wanted a pilot; the word struck us dumb for a moment, and then a shout issued from all persons on board: the pilot informed us we were twenty leagues from Cape Henelopen, and that we should anchor at the mouth of the river that night if the wind continued, it being then about eight o'clock in the morning; we had all our bread on deck, and that day eat every morsel for dinner; we came to anchor that night, as the pilot said, and in three days arrived opposite the delightful and flourishing city of Philadelphia, after a most distressing passage of twenty weeks; notwithstanding,

standing, the cargo was not damaged, and had but ten servants died and one drowned. Having addressed myself to a merchant there, I soon disposed of the cargo to very good advantage, and by order of my uncle bought a ship just off the stocks. During my stay in that American paradise, I lodged at the merchant's house; and having nearly settled my uncle's business in New-York and Philadelphia, I had a good deal of time to spare, which I mostly spent in shooting in the woods or visiting acquaintances, of which I had a good number, especially among the fair sex, and must say the women in that city are most amiable in person and qualifications: I was vain enough to think there were several of them who much admired me; which made me first grow proud of my person, and is the cause of my ruin, as will appear in the sequel. There was not a day but I had different invitations to spend the afternoon, or accompany the young ladies to their country-houses: let not the reader imagine, tho' I kept this gay company, I ever forgot my dear Carolina; no, she was constantly in my mind, and the hope of seeing her at my return out-balanced all the miseries I underwent on my passage.

While I was in that city, the ship arrived which brought the stamped papers over, on which, by an act passed, called the Stamp Act, were to be all public writings as in Great-Britain; it was accompanied by a man
of

of war (stationed at the mouth of the river Delaware). These two vessels anchored just opposite the city; as soon as it was known in the city, the people all assembled on the quay, and informed the Captain that the papers should not be landed; on which Capt. Sterling, who commanded the man of war, declared, if they made any opposition, he would fire on the town: he was answered, if he fired one shot, that they would sink his vessel from the fort. The members of the Assembly were directly summoned to meet, which they did, and unanimously agreed not to suffer the papers to be landed. Never did a greater spirit appear than shewed itself on this occasion; no division was seen amongst the people, they were one and all ready to support the determination of their representatives, and told the Captain that he should not land any part of his cargo in that city till he had disposed of the stamps. He in consequence was obliged to deliver them to Capt. Sterling, with which he sailed to his station at the Cape.

It was about the 20th of December before I could get the vessels loaded, at which time the river, two miles over, was frozen a-cross; the N. W. wind setting in, it continued to freeze so very hard, that the ice was able to support horses and waggons, which brought goods from the Jerseys. About the 7th of January it snowed very hard, to the depth on the ground of eight feet and upwards: while

the snow lies on the ground, the people travel in sledges, with two horses, which go exceeding swift, and is very pleasant. Numbers of the citizens go into the country at this time on purpose to stay; likewise they who live adjacent to the river skait on the ice with great swiftness. One afternoon I went with some company on the ice, where I saw Governor ****, with Judge Allen's sons, and many more gentlemen; the Governor being fatigued sat down upon the ice, and pulled off his skaits; a country-looking Irishman came up to him, and accosted him in these words, "Fot do you call this?" (meaning the skait) the Governor very politely answered, "A skait, Sir:" the Hibernian, not content with the bare word skait, must know the use of it; upon which he enquired, "Fot the devil use could be made upon this said skait?" the Governor told him, if he would consent to have them buckled on like the gentlemen on the ice, he should go swift like them; the true son of Patrick gave his consent, and the Governor performed the operation: as soon as he got on his feet, he was down almost in an instant; he cried out that his head was off, called the Governor a son of a b—h, and desired him to come and tie the ropes harder; he obeyed, as he made diversion for the gentlemen in general. The inhabitant of the bogs thinking he had made sport long enough, told the Governor (he being then about seven yards

yards distant) that he had a little use for them said skaits, and would borrow them for a time; upon which he set off, to the very great surprize and laugh of the whole company: he was followed by two or three very good skaiters, but in vain; he soon got out of sight, and left the Governor the talk of the town for many days: the skaits were worth near twenty pounds, notwithstanding which they were not advertised; and, as I was informed, he never could bear to hear the joke with temper afterwards.

On the 12th of February, the ice being pretty much broke, we dropped down the river to Reedy Island, where waiting for a wind two or three days, on the 15th we set sail on board the new vessel, called the Polly, (the other vessel being in company) with a brisk and favourable wind. My joy was now inexpressible, at the thought of returning to my native country, and all that I could call dear. The wind continued for twenty-two days to blow very hard but favourable, and on the 9th of March we discovered land about six leagues distant; and on the 15th we anchored in Poolbeg, Dublin harbour. I directly came on shore, and was received by my uncle with all the warm caresses of a tender parent: as soon as I could possibly disengage myself from him, I repaired directly to enquire after my dear Carolina; but when I came to the house where we agreed to leave intelligence for each other, the man
was

was dead, and the family removed, but whither to no one could inform me. This account was very disagreeable. I directly went to the College, in hopes by some means to be informed by her brother, but he had set out a month before for Bath: it being then about five o'clock in the afternoon, some of my old acquaintance proposed going to the play, which I agreed to. I sat in the pit unmindful of the entertainment, being deeply engaged in meditating in what manner I should proceed; I was awaked out of my reverie by a jog of my companion with these words, "Dudley, there is a sweet creature in that box." As soon as I looked up, heavens! what was my surprize, when the very person was my wife! she looked some time on me, and cried out, "'Tis Mr. Dudley." I directly quitted the pit, and went round to the box where she sat with her mother and one sister; as soon as the old lady saw me enter the door, she attempted to leave the box; but I informed her that I did not mean to disturb her, only being just arrived, and seeing that young lady, to whom I had some claim, I took the liberty of entering the box. My wife flew to my arms, in which I conveyed her out from her mother, instantly had a coach, which I ordered to drive to the Black Rock, about four miles from Dublin, where we continued a week. At our return to town we went to pay our duty to the old lady; she received us with

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an air of dignity, and granted us her blessing with these words, " May God in his infinite mercy bless you, but from this hour never let me see you within these doors," and then she walked out of the room. My wife was a good deal affected at this sentence pronounced by her mother, and shed a flood of tears on the occasion. We soon left the house agreeable to orders received, and took lodgings in Fleet-street. My apprenticeship was now expired, and my uncle allowed me at the rate of sixty pounds per ann. with my board. I lived as clerk to him upwards of one year, during which time I was blessed with a son; but my mother-in-law sending a nurse for the child, we thought it most prudent to let her have it under her care. I then thought of paying a visit to my father, which I did with expectation of his receiving me again into favour. I arrived at his house, in company with my faithful friend the Rev. Mr. Adamson, and entering the hall, was met by my dear mother, who expressed all the joy imaginable on seeing me safe returned. I was the darling of this indulgent parent, and all her happiness seemed to center in my welfare. I asked for my father, and was informed he had walked out in the fields: we had not sat long before the old gentleman entered; as soon as he saw me, he turned about and walked to his own room; my mother followed him, but in some time after returned, and informed me that he was
determined

determined not to see me or speak to me; however, we lay there that night, and taking leave next morning of my dear mother, she gave me forty pounds, which was a very timely assistance. We set out for Dublin, and on the road overtook an old servant of my father's, who was driving a parcel of oxen and sheep to Smithfield; a sudden thought came into my head of selling them and keeping the money: I told the man that my father and I had made up all differences, that I was to live with him, and was going to bring down my wife; that I had received orders to dispose of the sheep and oxen, and remit the money home directly: the old man seemed very well pleased, and, to bind him entirely my own, I gave him a guinea. In about three days we arrived in town, and I sold the whole stock to a butcher for one hundred and seventy pounds. I wrote my father word directly what I had done, imagining he would think no more of it; but was greatly surprized when one night the person with whom we lodged informed me the bailiffs were after me, and that he had this intelligence from very good authority. I was greatly alarmed at this account, and next day, having sent to the sheriff's office, the news was confirmed, that my father had given orders to his attorney to arrest me. I kept my room quite close, and sent word to my uncle I was ill. Sunday being the only day which I enjoyed going abroad without fear,

I grew

I grew tired of this confinement, and concluded on leaving Dublin; my wife soon consenting, we took our passage as secretly as possible on board the packet for Holyhead. I intended to settle in Bristol, for which place I travelled as soon as I possibly could; having arrived in that city, I knew not one person there, but taking lodgings at a countryman's house, he gave me what intelligence I wanted, which was to know the best part of the town for me to settle in. I soon took a house, and having about one hundred and fifty pounds, I concluded on following the grocery business, and, with the assistance of my friend who followed that business, laid in a stock of goods, and found trade to answer exceeding well. I soon became very well known on 'Change, and being a housekeeper, I thought myself a man of consequence. I followed this business with good success upwards of two years; but having the ambition of being called a merchant, I shipped some goods for Lisbon, and sent orders to Ireland to ship me large quantities of butter, tallow, &c. I dealt very extensively abroad and at home for twelve months; but my fund was not sufficient to support such a trade without very great inconveniencies, which put me several times to my wits end to extricate myself: at length, having some very large payments to make, and my goods at that time lying on my hands; having likewise a large quantity of butter,

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which

which fell in its price above fifty per cent. all uniting to distress me, I was obliged to stop payment and settle with my creditors, which they consented to do without taking out a commission of bankruptcy. Mr. Jacob Player and Mr. Nathaniel Watts were appointed to settle my affairs; which being done, my creditors were so well satisfied, that they made my wife a present of the household furniture, her watch, plate, &c. and forty pounds in money. Mr. Player made an offer of taking me into his 'compting-house, and allowing me one hundred pounds per annum. This I agreed to, and lived very easy on my salary. I acted about two months as clerk, when the rider belonging to the house going away, I was offered his place and salary, which was one hundred pounds per year, half a guinea per day for my expences, and a pair of horses, which I rode alternately. It was at this time that I was exposed to all the temptations in life, and being too fond of vice, gave way to one in particular, which was the love of the fair sex. I courted almost every young woman whom I had an opportunity of being in company with, and grew quite proud of my person when I received any mark of esteem more than my Brother Whips. I soon became one of the most noted riders in the West, and can safely say, did more business than any one person of my profession in the kingdom. The first journey I went, I had the company of the
 facetious

facetious Daniel Gunston, who made me free of that honourable community commonly called the Gentlemen of the Stirrup, at the Pope's-head in Plymouth: his character as the most accomplished rider that ever yet appeared in a tradesman's shop with his hat off, and, "Sir, do you want any thing in my way? you have an exceeding good thop, and well well situated, &c." is too well known through the kingdom for me to pretend to make it more public. I enlarged the trade of the house to five times as much as when I came there, and on that account was very much indulged by my governor, who allowed me to trade for myself in lace, &c. which I did very considerably: but my extravagancies on my journey soon run out the profits of my dealings, as I always endeavoured to appear the most considerable traveller at all the inns, (not through any love of liquor, but pride.) I have often been from home six months at a time, during which time I constantly corresponded with my wife, and can say in truth, my regard was, and is as great now as ever for that amiable woman, notwithstanding I passed abroad for a batchelor, and endeavoured to engage the affections of every young woman I was acquainted with.

As I was on my return from one of my Western journeys, coming into Axminster, I was acquainted the Ladies Club was held there on that day: my curiosity being great in regard

to the sex, I determined to stay and be a spectator. About four o'clock the waiter informed me that they had began their procession. When I entered the street, the first objects I beheld were two charming country girls dressed in white, with a large arch of flowers supported by two blacks over their heads, (these two ladies were the stewards;) they were followed by the matrons, after whom appeared the emblems of innocence and health, the fair daughters of the gentlemen, tradesmen, and farmers in and adjacent to the town; the procession being closed by those of the poorer sort, who were to receive benefit from this society. They proceeded in this form to church, where they had an excellent sermon preached; after which they walked through most of the streets in that little town, twice round the church-yard, and then entered the school-house, where were two long tables furnished with tea, coffee, sweetmeats, &c. Gentlemen were allowed to be of the company, shewing this respect to the ladies, of standing the whole time with their hats off, and paying half a crown for a ticket. At one table were the genteel company; the other consisted of the inferior sort, who paid a monthly subscription to the club, and received, if sick, seven shillings per week, and had a doctor and nurse to attend them. The stewards are obliged to visit the sick once a week. The better sort pay, every club-day, some ten guineas, some more and

and some less. About eight o'clock they took a short walk, and adjourned to the Green Dragon inn, where about twenty young gentlemen accompanied me from our inn, (which was the George) and joined their company. The ball being opened, I had, by the desire of an eminent tradesman in that town, his daughter for my partner. I was rejoiced at my good fortune, as she was the toast of the place, and eclipsed all the other beauties in the room. I hope the reader will excuse me from mentioning her name, as it is no credit to any person now to boast of my acquaintance. About six o'clock in the morning we repaired every one to our quarters, and as I was about to go for my inn, the father of my fair partner invited me to have a dish of chocolate. I consented, which gave me an opportunity of saying several fine things to the young lady. I stayed two or three days longer in town, and notwithstanding the time was very short, I had every thing settled for a match, which I thought proper then to decline. When I arrived at home, my governor informed me that I must directly set off for Ireland on some business of consequence. This was very disagreeable news to me, as I still dreaded my father having me arrested and put in prison; but no excuse would do, I was obliged to obey, and having my instructions how to act, set out on board the Hawk yatch. I landed in Corke, and having done my business there,

came

came to Dublin, where I kept as private as possible, till I had made enquiry about the old affair, which I understood was all dropped, and the action withdrawn. Having been in Dublin about two weeks, I had paid me one day a draft of my father's on his salesman for fourteen pounds; it was indorsed by one person; a thought directly came into my head to change the sum in this draft (which was due) to forty. I soon put the scheme into execution, and had it presented for payment directly; it passed, and I received the money, for which I gave a receipt in my own name. My business being finished, I made what dispatch I could to get on board the packet, and arrived safe at Holyhead. I heard nothing of the affair for some time, when my governor received a letter from my father, complaining of my undutifulness, and informing him that if ever I should behave in like manner again, he would put the law in force.

In November 1771 I received an account from Ireland, informing me that a law-suit, which had been carried on by Joseph Lemmon, Esq; (who married my wife's sister) for upwards of six years, in behalf of the daughter against the eldest son, was decided, by which my wife became entitled to five thousand pounds. I was then on a journey in South Wales, and courting a young lady in Haverfordwest; but this news soon called me home, where I was congratulated by my acquaintances

tances on my good fortune. I intended to go directly with my wife for Ireland; but my governor desiring I would go one journey in the West and South before I left him, I could not, without the greatest ingratitude, refuse him; however, I sent my wife on board the Britannia yatch, Capt. Evans, for Corke, and the same day set off on my last journey (for the house) to the West. I settled accounts with my customers, balanced my journey-books, and took a farewell of all my acquaintances in those parts. When I came to Axminster, I had an invitation to the gentleman's house before-mentioned, which I accepted, and stayed several days. Having had many excursions in the country with the young lady, one of which was to Lyme, the afternoon being very fine, we concluded on having a boat, and going a distance out on the water: we had not been above an hour on board, when it began to blow hard; the watermen directly tacked about, but the wind blowing off shore, could not make the harbour; on which they concluded to make what land they could, and about one o'clock came ashore in a little creek. It was then dark, and blowing very hard, I was afraid the young lady would have perished; I espied a small light, which we made to, and after walking about a quarter of a mile, came to a little village; we knocked at the door, and had it opened by an ancient man, who asked us to walk in.

On

On my entering the house, I was surprized to see a young woman whom I once met on the road between Axminster and Bridport, and with whom I had some private conversation: the watermen notwithstanding, being I suppose smugglers, did not know where they were till they came to the village, which they informed me was called Westay, about five miles from Lyme in Dorsetshire. We concluded on staying there all night, and as there were not any spare beds, I was determined to sit up; the young lady I persuaded to lie down on the daughter's bed, who was my old acquaintance. About twelve o'clock I was alarmed by the noise of several voices and knocking at the door, which as soon as the old man heard, he arose and opened; there entered about twelve men with sacks on their shoulders. I had a large quantity of bills and money belonging to my governor about me at that time, and I was a good deal in fear of my property, as well as lest any affront should be offered to the young lady; my own safety was the least I thought of. As soon as they espied me, they asked who I was; the man of the house told them he did not know, and informed them when and how I came in; one of them said, "I'll be d—d if he be not a spy;" in which opinion they all agreed: one who seemed to be the leader, coming up to me, asked my name, where I lived, and what I did there, which I told them: the
watermen

watermen who came with me being gone to see after their boat, I had no person to strengthen my argument, and indeed it seemed strange that one of my profession should be found in such an obscure place; they one and all insisted on putting me in a boat and sending me adrift, and for that purpose were going to lay hold of me, when the noise awakened the young lady and the old man's daughter; they both ran down stairs, and one of them cried out, "There is Miss R—, Mr. R—'s daughter at Axminster." Most of the men knew her, as her father kept a shop in Lyme, which he attended every market-day; she declared what I told them to be true, and likewise that I was an old acquaintance. They all begged pardon for their behaviour, but told me that they were informed of a spy having been some time employed by the Custom-house officers, to give an account of the haunts which smugglers had in those parts. I understood it was tea they had in the sacks; I asked them if they had any fine green, and being answered yes, I bought a quantity, and came to very good terms with those gentlemen before they parted. About two o'clock the old man went out with them, taking all the sacks, and in about an hour returned without any; they had brought back with them a jar of brandy, which they invited me to partake of, and the remainder of the night behaved very civilly. About six o'clock in the morning they all de-

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parted.

parted. After they were gone, I understood they had hid the sacks under some furze, which was cut on a mountain adjacent, and gathered in heaps, under two of which they put them, till an opportunity offered to carry them away. When it was light, I bid the family adieu, and walked with my female companion a-cross the fields to Lyme, where it was reported we were drowned. I took post-chaise directly for Axminster: the news was already arrived of our supposed death, but on our arrival we convinced them we were in the land of the living, and for the last time delivered the young lady up safe to her fond parents. I then proceeded to Portsmouth and Gosport, where I had an old sweet-heart, whom I courted every journey during the time of my travelling. Her father kept the India Arms inn at Gosport, where I always put up. That young lady cannot boast of very great beauty; but the amiable qualifications which she is blessed with, render her one of the most desirable companions I ever knew. She has a most excellent voice, plays on most instruments of music, understands history and many branches of the mathematics, speaks several languages, &c. Notwithstanding she is possessed of those valuable talents, she does not neglect the care of the house, and having every thing pleasing to the numerous guests which put up there. I never knew any house more agreeable to a traveller, or better regulated, which is en-
tirely

tirely owing to that amiable girl. I met an old Brother Whip there, who at that time courted an eminent Broker's daughter in that town, and who was an intimate acquaintance of my mistress's. As I arrived there on Friday, I could not get my business done there and at Portsmouth, and therefore concluded to go over to the Isle of Wight on Saturday, and having a great many customers in different parts of the island, I intended staying there till I finished (tho' I usually went from Limmington.) My Brother Whip also came into the same mind; and, to make our journey the more agreeable, we obtained the favour of the young ladies company, and late in the afternoon took a small boat to carry us to the Isle of Wight. It was quite dark before we reached the shore. At the landing-place there is a causeway, which runs upwards of two hundred yards into the channel, by the side of which it is made navigable for boats to pass. Having the advantage of a sail and a pair of oars, we sailed very fast, and not thinking we were so near land, did not use any precaution, but ran directly on the causeway, which split our boat: it was then our chief care to attend to the preservation of our mistresses, who were already sinking. As I could swim very well, I jumped overboard, and was agreeably surprized to find bottom, not being quite up to my middle; on which my Brother Whip got out also. We took the two ladies on our backs,

and carried them on shore. After some small stay, we procured a coach for Newport, where we arrived about twelve o'clock. Nothing material happened more on my journey, until I arrived at home. Having settled all accounts for my governor, I gave up my books, and left him. At that time I had a large quantity of lace, &c. on hand, which I sent up to London, as I intended to pay a visit to the metropolis, in order to dispose of my goods before I went to Ireland. Accordingly I hired a horse to Gosport, as I made that my way, and continued there a few days. I should have stayed longer, but in that time a gentleman from Bristol, who was well acquainted with my connections, came to the inn; and telling Miss D—s I was married, here ended all our long courtship; and every thing I could say had not the least effect on that amiable girl. That very night I took the stage for London, where I arrived next day, about six o'clock, at the Cross-Keys in Gracechurch-Street. Having never been in London before, I was curious to see the town; and having a Captain of a man of war, who lives near Portsmouth, for my companion in the coach, he consented to take a walk with me to the Park, &c. At our return thro' the Strand, I was surprized to see so many fine women of easy virtue, and had scarce resolution to keep from accompanying one of them home; but following the Captain's counsel, I returned to my inn. Next day I
went

went to enquire if my lace was sold, but found it was not; I took two small boxes full, and offered it for sale at almost every lace or milliner's shop in London; but it being of a high price, I was told that they never kept any quantity of that kind on hand. I took it then to Mr. Paul Prickett, Broker, in St. Martin's-le-grand, who sold it for me at an auction for near forty pounds less than it cost me. I had then been about two weeks in town, and having little to do, had seen most of the curiosities. I went to the play almost every night: one evening, being in the first gallery at Drury-lane House, a young lady sat just behind me, dressed all in white, and exceeding handsome. I took an opportunity, between the acts, of offering her an orange, which she accepted. I soon perceived she was either kept, or very forward to admit a stranger to take the liberties I did. Near the end of the play she was called out, and I followed her; but imagining it was the gentleman who kept her, I did not think proper to go farther than the door. I understood, by her speaking to the orange-girl, that she must know her; and having enquired, she told me that there were orders given her not to inform any gentleman where the lady lived. I slipped half a crown into the wench's hand; upon which she pulled a direction out of her pocket, (viz. Miss J****, at Mr. B*****'s, Hair-dresser, in Berwick-street, Soho.) I took a coach directly, in order

order to seek out this new-found beauty; and having arrived at the house, I found my direction right, and had the pleasure of seeing the young lady in person. She informed me that an old gentleman had her in keeping, allowed her seven guineas per week, and that he was just gone. However, I stayed with her that night, and scarce ever left the house for three weeks, she having sent the gentleman word that she was gone to see her friends, who lived at Birmingham. If ever any part of my affection was drawn from my dear partner, it was by this agreeable girl, who possessed every qualification to make her admired. Having lived in a very elegant manner with her for more than two months, in which time I spent upwards of two hundred pounds, I at length determined to go for Ireland, and set out from the Golden Cross, Charing-Cross, the 7th of June, 1770, in the post-coach for Chester, where I arrived the 9th. Next morning I took post-chaise for Parkgate, and found six vessels, besides the yatch, ready to sail for Dublin. I sent my trunks on board the Pretty Polly, Capt. Troy commander; and the wind being fair, next morning set sail, in company with the yatch, which had on board the Honourable Colonel Fitzroy and Colonel Skinner. About five o'clock in the afternoon, being off Beaumaris Bay, the wind came right a-head, and blew so exceeding hard, that the Captain thought it most prudent to tack about, and
steer

steer for Parkgate, where we arrived next day, about six o'clock in the afternoon. Every one of the vessels returned, except the yacht. Next morning Colonel Tongue, and two young gentlemen (one of whom was son to Sir Capel Molineux, Member of Parliament in Ireland) agreed to have a coach, and go to Holyhead, which we directly put in execution, and in two days arrived there, where we found the yacht and the passengers before-mentioned. That afternoon we went to engage our passage on board the Le Despencer packet. I agreed to pay six guineas for the cabin, but one of the young gentlemen thinking it too much, I told the Captain, in about an hour after, that I would not engage the whole cabin, but take the chance of a bed, which is but half a guinea. In the mean time Colonel Luttrell and two young ladies arrived, and sent directly to engage the whole vessel, which I hearing, insisted on having the cabin according to my agreement; which the Captain denied, telling me I could not go at all with him. My pride could not bear to be touched in this manner, and going to Colonel Luttrell, I told him that I had some dispatches of consequence to the Lord Lieutenant in Ireland, and desired that I might have my passage on board the packet; I likewise informed him that I had engaged the cabin before he had arrived, but that the Captain since refused admitting me at all: he very politely answered, that he would resign the

the cabin to me, and wait for the next opportunity. I returned him thanks, next morning went on board with my company, and set sail for Dublin, where we arrived in twenty-four hours, and paid the Captain but the common fare of half a guinea each.

At this time my wife was at her brother-in-law's country-seat in the county of Westmeath, for which place I set out in two days, and found my dear Carolina the same fond and charming creature as ever. Having staid there about a fortnight, in which time I had the honour of being several times at my Lord Belvidere's, who lives about two miles from my brother-in-law, Mr. Lemmon and his wife agreed to come to Dublin with me, in order to have my wife's fortune settled and paid. I waited several times on her guardians (who were Counsellor John F***** and her uncle W***) to have the money paid: at length, having appointed to meet me and my attorney, I had every thing in readiness to receive my moiety; but they told me I could not possibly receive it. This answer greatly surprized me. I asked, who durst keep it from me? but it was in vain to say any thing to those obstinate gentlemen, who informed me that the money should be put to interest at six per cent. and the interest paid to my wife during her life, then to go equally amongst our children. This proposal was executed, and every thing settled in a few days.

Being

Being sick of Dublin, I persuaded my wife to return to England, which she readily consented to. As I owed a great deal of money in the West, I did not think it safe to settle in Bristol, and therefore pitched on Liverpool, where we arrived without any thing particular happening. I had then about four hundred pounds, and owed about fourteen hundred. Having put up at the Angel inn, I enquired about the situation of the town, and pitched on a house in the principal street, which I took, giving orders to have the shop fitted up. I set off for London to lay in goods, leaving my wife to have every thing ready against my return. As soon as I arrived in town, Miss J****'s was the first place I paid a visit to, and for a week I forgot that I had any other affairs to mind; but receiving a letter from my wife, I was determined to mind the *needful*, and accordingly gave my orders to several tradesmen in town, one of whom was the Right Honourable William Nash, the present Lord-Mayor.

After having been about a month in town, I was met one day by some gentlemen from Bristol, who knew me: they asked me several questions, which I did not think proper to answer directly; and by their informing one of my creditors, who was in town, the very next day I was arrested at the Cross-Keys in Gracechurch-street, just as I was dressed ready for Vauxhall: the sum being considerable, I suffered myself to be carried

to a spunging-house (the King's Head, Wood-street) and sending for my creditor, I offered him half the money, but to no purpose. I staid there upwards of two weeks before I could settle with him: but at length agreeing to take fifteen shillings in the pound, we met at the Half-Moon tavern in Cheap-side; and having paid him, and got his receipt, we staid to drink a bottle in friendship. A detainer was lodged against me for two hundred pounds more, which being followed that very afternoon by three others, obliged me to return to my old quarters. Having paid away most part of what money I had, and the expences of a spunging-house being very great, I was at a loss what to do for supplies; and the situation I left my wife in grieved me more than any thing I could suffer. Having spent what money I had left, Mr. Earl, who kept the house, informed me, that it was always customary for gentlemen to pay every day, (though before he never brought in his bill but once a week.) I told him, that I expected money very soon, and hoped he would give me credit; "Don't tell me of credit (cried the humane gentleman) those who can't pay, must go over the way to the Compter." While he was repeating those words, I was called; and on entering the parlour, whom should I see but the amiable Miss J****? I was rejoiced at her appearance. Having sat some time, she asked how I stood in regard to cash; and, informing her of the situation of my affairs, she told me

me that every thing in her possession was at my disposal, giving me at the same time three guineas; which indeed was a timely assistance. She continued her visits constantly as a warm friend; but being obliged to go into the country, I lost my support, and was again drove to poverty.

Reading the papers one day, I saw a paragraph promising his Majesty's pardon, and a reward of a thousand pounds, to any one who should discover the person or persons concerned in setting fire to the Dock-yard at Portsmouth: I directly determined to write a letter to the Earl of Rochford, and inform him that I knew the persons who fired the Dock, and that I was concerned. The letter was as follows:

*To the Right Hon. the Earl of ROCHFORD,
Secretary of State.*

* MY LORD,

‘ Having read a paragraph in the papers,
‘ where it is promised his Majesty’s pardon
‘ will be given to any person who shall dis-
‘ cover the person or persons who fired Portf-
‘ mouth Dock; as I am well acquainted with
‘ the whole affair, I think it my duty to in-
‘ form you of each particular. I am at pre-
‘ sent in the King’s Head tavern, in Wood-
‘ street, being arrested for debt; but do not
‘ make this application to you on that account,
‘ as I have it in my power to settle with my
‘ creditors. I beg your Lordship will keep
‘ it very secret for many reasons, which I shall

‘ give when I have the honour of seeing your
 ‘ Lordship, and am, with the greatest respect,

‘ Your’s,

‘ DUDLEY.’

Next day I had a visit from two gentlemen, who informed me they waited on me by order of Lord Rochford, and produced my letter. I asked their names, but was answered it was not any way material for me to know, and that neither was my Lord. I informed them that I knew the whole affair, and that I could give directions in what manner to have the offenders apprehended, and that I greatly desired to do so; but let them know nothing particular, as I had not quite finished the plan I was to proceed on. They requested me to write out the whole affair, and have it ready next afternoon, to which I consented. When they were about to depart, they asked me if it was not usual to pay footing in such houses; I answered in the affirmative; upon which one of them laid down five guineas on the table, saying, “ Mr. Dudley, pray treat the gentlemen with a bottle of wine.” I suppose they were the first Secretaries of States’ Secretaries that ever paid garnish in a spunging-house; as I understood the next day they both were, one of them being Stanier Porten, Esq; Secretary to the Earl of Rochford, and the other Mr. Frazier, Secretary to the Earl of Suffolk. That afternoon I was
 mostly

mostly employed in laying down my plan in writing, that I might be the more correct on any cross-examination. Agreeable to promise, the same gentlemen came next day, to whom I delivered some part of the account, only secreting the names. They seemed pretty well satisfied. I told them I should in a little time give them a full account, and they did not part without giving me the price of another bottle. Notwithstanding there were many prisoners in the house, not one knew who those gentlemen were; nor did I inform them any particular concerning the affair, till it was in the public papers about a month after. In two days I wrote again to the Earl of Rochford as follows:

‘ MY LORD,

‘ As I have taken upon me to bring the
 ‘ affair of Portsmouth fire to light, and give
 ‘ such intelligence as will be necessary to ap-
 ‘ prehend the persons who were concerned
 ‘ with me in that conflagration, I must inform
 ‘ your Lordship that the principal person is
 ‘ now in town, as I saw him pass by this
 ‘ house yesterday, and would have your Lord-
 ‘ ship send me your Secretary as soon as
 ‘ possible, that I may give him proper instruc-
 ‘ tions how to have him taken. My Lord,
 ‘ I am, with respect, your’s, &c.

‘ DUDLEY.’

Agreeable to my request, Mr. Porten waited on me. I told him that Captain Hickey (who was the principal person in laying the plan to
 set

set fire to the Dock-yard) was in town, and that I had seen him the day before; that his places of resort usually were the Grecian coffee-house, London tavern, the Red Cross at Charing-cross, and the Cross Keys in Gracechurch-street. His person and dress I described as follows: he was about five feet ten inches high, exceeding well made, his age thirty, very handsome, dressed in blue cloaths with gold lace, and wore his own hair. He desired I would let him know the other persons names, which I refused, my plan being not entirely compleated. I informed him that many of my papers were at Liverpool, and that I could not give a correct account with authority, till I had them brought to me; and likewise told him that my wife was there, and desired she might be brought to town. He promised to see me the next day, which he accordingly did, and informed me that my Lord Rochford would send a Messenger for my wife and papers, and desired I would give an authority to demand them. I told him he should have it the next day; and that very night wrote to my wife to come up directly, and bring all my papers with her, but to leave my trunks there. The next day I empowered Mr. Stayley (one of his Majesty's Messengers in ordinary) to bring all my effects in Liverpool, together with my wife, he paying all demands and expences which should be lawfully claimed. In consequence of their being moved to me, in a few days I had the pleasure of seeing my wife in
town,

town, who instantly obeyed my summons. I directly acquainted my Lord Rochford of her arrival, and that she had brought all my papers to town, and I was ready to give his Lordship a full account, when I should have the honour of seeing him, and accordingly wrote him the following letter :

To the Right Hon. the Earl of ROCHFORD.

‘ MY LORD,

‘ I wrote to you last Saturday afternoon, and
 ‘ accordingly had a visit from one of your gentlemen. He complained of my being not explicit enough. My Lord, I shall be full in
 ‘ my declaration and account, when I have
 ‘ the honour of being called before you. My
 ‘ Lord, if you don’t think proper to pursue
 ‘ the discovery, I don’t desire to say any more.
 ‘ I have been and am willing to do my duty, but
 ‘ shall, as I think I am clear in having given
 ‘ your Lordship the account I have done, drop
 ‘ the affair, and bury it in oblivion; and may
 ‘ the disaster never be repeated at Plymouth,
 ‘ and may your Lordship ever continue to be
 ‘ guided with that unerring hand which makes
 ‘ your virtues so conspicuous in your station.
 ‘ My Lord, my papers are arrived; your
 ‘ Lordship shall be welcome to inspect them
 ‘ in my presence, as I can be ready to explain
 ‘ them, and hope you will not desire the contrary. What I said to your Secretary, the
 ‘ last time he was here, concerning Plymouth,
 ‘ I pledge my life if I don’t fulfil it, provided
 ‘ I can

‘ I can settle my affairs by that time. An
 ‘ hour’s conversation with your Lordship will
 ‘ convince you of the truth. I should be glad
 ‘ you would be pleased to honour me with an
 ‘ answer. I am certain the Earl of Rochford
 ‘ would think very meanly of me, were I to
 ‘ disclose each individual concerned with me
 ‘ to persons I do not know come authorized
 ‘ from you; they are not persons who are
 ‘ commissioned to hear an affair, it being of
 ‘ the greatest consequence to the kingdom. I
 ‘ should think your Lordship could better
 ‘ judge the affair by hearing it from me than
 ‘ at second-hand. My Lord, the water is
 ‘ not so pure in the pool as in the fountain. I
 ‘ beg your Lordship’s pardon for taking this
 ‘ liberty; but being so strongly solicited
 ‘ by a gentleman I knew nothing about
 ‘ to discover each minute circumstance to him,
 ‘ I take this opportunity to acquaint your
 ‘ Lordship, I cannot think it consistent with
 ‘ my own private interest to be any more ex-
 ‘ plicit, till I have the honour of an interview
 ‘ with your Lordship and your Secretary.

‘ I am, with the greatest regard,

‘ Your Lordship’s most obedient

‘ humble servant,

‘ DUDLEY.’

As to my particular design, I had none but
 to extricate myself from the spunging-house;
 and having repeated the story so often, my
 thoughts

thoughts being wholly engaged on that subject, I believed it true myself. In two or three days my trunks arrived, and Mr. Porten having waited on me to inform me thereof, he desired Mrs. Dudley would go with him to my Lord Rochford's office to see them opened, which I consented to; a young lady, daughter of Mr. Austin (who was then a fellow-prisoner) accompanying her. She was away upwards of four hours, when returning, she brought with her all my trunks, &c. and informed me that the Earl of Suffolk being present with the Earl of Rochford, they behaved exceeding polite, and as she was about to depart, the Earl of Rochford put a ten-pound note in her hand, and bade her pay the coach. The next morning I was called on to go before the Lord-Mayor, which I did soon. When I arrived at the Mansion-house, I was called into the room where he was by himself; and as soon as I had sat down, and the door was shut, he informed me that he had received orders from the Earl of Rochford to take my affidavit in regard to my being concerned and knowing the persons who executed the plan of setting the Dock-yard of Portsmouth on fire, and that he hoped I would be a friend to my country by discovering the whole affair. He assured me that he would support me in the apprehending of the offenders; and that any arts which the Ministry might practise against my good intention,

tion, should have no effect. I soon perceived this great patriot to be a fit tool for my purpose, being obstinate in his opinion, and very dull in his apprehension. He expressed his very great satisfaction at my declaration, and some gentlemen calling on his Lordship, he begged I would excuse him for an hour; but I told him I had rather return to my quarters, and call again. To this he consented, and I had several visits before I made the affidavit, the purport of which was as follows :

“ THAT being on a journey, I arrived about the 15th of July at Gosport; on the 20th, as I was walking the parade at Portsmouth, I met Captain Hickey, with six other gentlemen with him; he being a school-fellow of mine, I soon knew him, and he me. We adjourned to the Fountain tavern, where we dined. The next day he dined with me at the India Arms, Gosport. After dinner we drank hearty, and in the course of our conversation he informed me, that he had an affair to transact on which depended his life and property, and it lay in my power to be of the greatest service to him. I declared my readiness to serve him at the risque of my life; and pressing him to let me know in what manner I could serve him, he informed me that he was employed by the French Court to set fire to the Dock-yards, and that he had already laid the plan, but wanted a person who was known to introduce his

his accomplices into the yards. He told me I should have two hundred pounds for so doing, and a commission in the French service. I agreed to his proposal, and the next day introduced Captain Hickey and three more gentlemen into the yard. He seemed to place his attention mostly on the store-house; and having walked about two hours in the different parts of the yard, we repaired to the Fountain tavern, where we dined; and having every thing agreed on, we pitched on Thursday night, the 26th of July, to put the plan in execution. We were to meet that afternoon at the Blue-Posts inn on the Point, which we did. The six gentlemen went to fire the Dock-yard, while Captain Hickey and I took a boat and rowed up and down the river. About twelve o'clock we espied a boat rowing up to us, which we soon understood to belong to our company. Captain Hickey asked them if they had done the job; they answered, yes. We rowed down towards Spithead, to the westward of which, almost opposite to Cowes, we came along-side of a sloop, which we all went on board; and having drank share of a bottle of claret, and received one hundred guineas, Capt. Hickey desired I would go with him to France, which I denied. He told me that I should have remittances in a few days, and begged I would accept of the above sum for the present. Having taken my leave, I got into the boat

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with a handkerchief tied over my eyes, and was landed between Gosport and the hospital. I walked up to the town; and as soon as I arrived there, I heard the cry of fire, and saw the smoke; but I directly got into bed, and the next day went to the Isle of Wight, and found my friends had got clear off."

This was the purport of my information, of which I made affidavit before the Lord-Mayor; and likewise that, if I was suffered to go down to Portsmouth and Plymouth, I should apprehend the offenders, who were at that time laying a plan for burning Plymouth Dock-yard. Orders were sent down to Plymouth to have the guards doubled, and all caution taken to prevent any accident happening there. As soon as the Lord-Mayor had taken my affidavit, he waited on the Secretary of State, and insisted on my having proper assistance to accompany me down to Portsmouth, &c. In a few days I was again summoned to appear before his Lordship, which I did, and was informed that the Earl of Rochford was with his Lordship and many more gentlemen. I was, soon after my arrival, called to wait on their Lordships. On my entering the room, I was asked to sit down at the table, on which were divers kinds of wines, fruit, &c. I pitched on red port for my drink. Having sat about half an hour, we entered on business, and being cross-examined thro' my information,
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the Lord-Mayor told me that I should have proper assistance, and every other means which was necessary, to take the persons who were concerned with me in firing Portsmouth Dock. I begged to retire a-while, which was granted me; and coming into the Justice's room, where were the Rev. Mr. Evans, my Lord-Mayor's Chaplain, his father, and Mr. Earle, keeper of the spunging-house, I sat down with them, smoaked a pipe, and drank some wine. Mr. Evans and his son passed many compliments on my patriotic spirit, and what great justice I was doing to the kingdom; that I should shine like a star in my country, and be recorded in history to my everlasting glory. I began to think those gentlemen inherited much the same share of understanding as their master, and that there was no great fear of their fracturing their skulls by a fall from their horse. In about an hour after, I was called into the company, and having every thing ready to be bailed, they desired me to sign the bonds, which I refused. On being asked the reason, I answered, that I owed the keeper of the house where I was confined some money, and could not think of leaving his house till I had paid him. My Lord Rochford asked the amount: I told him about seventy pounds. He desired that the man might call at his office, and he should have it settled. I went out directly, and informed Earle of those words;

words; but he told me, that if it was not settled before I was bailed, he should never get a penny. I returned, and told the Earl of Rochford that I would not be bailed till the man was paid. He replied, "I suppose it is the first instance ever known of a Secretary of State paying a gentleman's bill at a spunging-house:" but that he would be that singular Minister, and directly paid seventy-two pounds; whereupon I was immediately bailed by William Dick, Esq; of Pall-mall, and Mr. Mann, of Westminster, two of his Majesty's Messengers in ordinary. I returned directly to the King's Head with Mr. Dick, and getting my things ready for the journey, I took leave of my wife, and desired she might go in my absence to Bristol, and dispose of our goods there. About half past two o'clock in the morning Mr. Dick and I took post-chaise for Portsmouth, where we arrived about two o'clock next day, and in the afternoon we waited on the Commissioner of the Dock-yard, who very sensibly examined me, and thro' all his questions, advice and reprimands, shewed the honesty of his heart, the regard he had for the welfare of his country, and his desire of bringing the affair to light. Agreeable to his directions, persons were sent to every public-house in town to make enquiry if there were any foreigners; but there being none, we concluded on leaving the town. The Commissioner

missioner letting us have his barge, we came to Gosport, where we dined; and Mr. Dick enquiring if I had been there at the time of the fire, was answered, yes, and shewed my name in the bar-book the very day; which was a mistake, for I did not come till near three weeks after the fire happened. We directly took post-chaise for Southampton, where we staid three days; but finding no foreigners there, we took post-chaise for Plymouth. We made application to the Commissioner there, who came to our inn directly. This gentleman I soon perceived to be of the same cast as the patriotic C****. He had all the questions he was to ask me (which, by the way, were foreign to the affair) wrote down, and I have great reason to think he did not understand the answers which I made him. When he had finished his list of interrogatories, and having paused a good while, he said, "Sir, do you know I am a Justice of Peace, and that I can grant you a warrant for apprehending those villains who were concerned in firing Portsmouth Dock?" As we had the Lord-Mayor's warrant already, we desired he would back it, which he did. Indeed, I should not be in the least afraid of setting Plymouth Dock on fire while under the direction of that C**** Governor. We staid there upwards of a week, during which time we visited Lord Edgcumbe twice; but receiving an express from

from London, we had orders to return home directly, which we obeyed, and in four days arrived in Cleveland-row, on Sunday afternoon, about five o'clock. Neither of the Secretaries being in town, Mr. Dick brought me to his house, where I remained upwards of a week. Mrs. Dudley then coming to town, was denied seeing me; but on her applying to Lord Rochford, she had orders to live entirely with me; which was the first instance known of permitting a prisoner's wife to live with her husband in a Messenger's house. I lived upwards of two months there, and had all expences paid; in which time a Messenger was sent to Bristol to make enquiry concerning my connections in those parts. Mr. Player, thinking he was doing a piece of service to me, told the Messenger I was innocent of the affair, and could prove my receiving money for him the day when the fire happened, and mentioned the person from whom I had it; which was true: for on the 26th of July, 1770, I received from William Land, Baker, in Bristol, forty-five pounds, and for which he produced my receipt.

As soon as term began, I was delivered up by my bail, and put into the King's Bench, where my wife was not allowed to come, but, by the command of the Earls of Rochford and Bute, sent to Ireland. Having been in the Bench about one month, and my supplies
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of cash not equal to my extravagance, I consented to write some Whisperers for that libellous printer W. Moore, in Chancery-lane, for which I received a good deal of money. The substance being abusive and false, the Secretaries of State would not suffer me to proceed farther: but, as it was already believed I knew nothing of what I pretended, they had a bill found at the Old-Bailey against me for perjury, and my Lord Mansfield's warrant lodged as a detainer. In January I was removed by a Habeas Corpus in order to take my trial; and being brought to the Old-Bailey, I was asked by the Clerk of the Arraignment if I knew the nature of my indictment; I answered, yes: on which he said, "I suppose you plead not guilty." I told him I did, but desired, as I did not intend to be tried that session, I might have liberty to return to the King's Bench: the Recorder told me, if I had bail in Court, I might; but having only one, which was Mr. Tucker, Under Marshal to the King's Bench, I was delivered into the hands of the Sheriff, and conveyed to Newgate. Mr. Akerman, the Keeper, behaved exceeding kind to me on the occasion: having accompanied me to the gaol, he gave orders that every person should use me with respect. The best room in the gaol being shut, he ordered the Turnkey to let me have it for my use. A young gentleman being in the master's side, whose name was Thomas Cavenagh, was to

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accompany me. About the middle of the sessions I sent a letter to the Recorder, signifying that I had something very material to say; he ordered me down to Court; I told him, that notwithstanding I could prove every thing I had asserted to be truth, I would then plead guilty. He then ordered the bill of indictment to be read, and told me that my charge was so very heinous, that in regard to my welfare he would not let me plead guilty; concluding, that it was a very singular case, and that an instance of the kind was not known since Titus Oates. I was again ordered up to the gaol, where Mr. Cavenagh and I lived very agreeably together. About three weeks after sessions our company was increased to three in number by the entrance of John Vestenburgh, Esq; who was committed on suspicion of forging a draught on the Bank of England, in the name of Sir Joshua Vanneck and Co. for 4500*l*. He being a very sensible gentleman, did not disturb that happiness which Mr. Cavenagh and I endeavoured to render each other, but rather contributed to make it more complete. The next sessions coming on, I was determined to plead guilty again; and having wrote to the Recorder, he had me again down to Court, and then I was allowed to withdraw my plea of not guilty, and plead guilty, and begged for transportation. The last day of the sessions I was called down to the Old-Bailey, and expected
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to receive my sentence with the rest of my fellow-prisoners. I was the last called out of the bail-dock. The Recorder told me that he could not pass judgment on me at that time, as it was left to the determination of the Judges. I was surprized at this answer, which had such an effect on me, that as soon as I was brought back to gaol, I took to my bed, which I kept upwards of five weeks. It being then the long vacation, and Mr. Vestenburgh's trial not coming on the last sessions, with Mr. Cavenagh's having obtained a stop, we three remained together. On the approach of the sessions, Mr. Vestenburg seemed very much alarmed, which it was our study to divert him from. The night before his trial he went to bed pretty early, and desiring Mr. Cavenagh to sing him a song, he complied, and sung that in the Beggars Opera, "The charge is prepared." He started up out of his bed, and said, "By G— it is amazing, Sir, how you could think of that song above all others," dressed himself, and got up: having plenty of wine, he drank pretty freely, and then retired to his bed. I need not inform the reader that he was next day honourably acquitted. Notwithstanding Mr. Cavenagh in particular had studied to oblige this gentleman in every respect, and it being customary for gentlemen who are admitted to that room to leave the plates, knives and forks, &c. for the use of the ward, he ordered every thing to be taken away,

away, and we have never had any message from him since. The last day of the sessions I was ordered down to the Old-Bailey, and and received my sentence, of being fined one shilling, confined for one month, and transported for seven years. The very morning my time of confinement was expired, the transports went on board, of which unhappy number I was one. I staid on board one night, and the next day about ten o'clock was brought back to Newgate, where I am at present.

JOSHUA DUDLEY.

Grand Master's Side, Newgate,

July 16, 1772.



F I N I S

